

Chlorpyrifos

Issue:

- Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate insecticide registered for a large variety of agricultural and non-agricultural uses and currently undergoing registration review. In December 2020, EPA published the Proposed Interim Decision (PID) for registration review.

Background:

- On March 29, 2017, EPA issued an order denying the 2007 petition (PANNA-NRDC) requesting that EPA revoke all tolerances for the pesticide chlorpyrifos under section 408(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) and cancel all chlorpyrifos registrations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The petitioners, as well as others, filed objections to EPA's 2017 order under the procedures provided for in section 408(g) of the FFDCA. EPA denied the objections in the July 24, 2019 order, in part, on the grounds that the petition did not provide sufficiently valid, complete, and reliable information to support the request for revocation. On August 7, 2019, the petitioners from the 2007 petition, in addition to several states, petitioned the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to review the July 2019 Order. Oral arguments were given in that case on July 28, 2020.
- Since 2018, Hawaii, California, New York, and Oregon have announced regulations to limit or prohibit use of chlorpyrifos within their respective states.
- Corteva announced it would stop manufacturing chlorpyrifos by 2021; however, they are not the sole registrant. The remaining technical registrants include Adama, Drexel, and Gharda.
- The Agency convened a FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) in September 2020 to discuss new approach methodologies to derive extrapolation factors and evaluate developmental neurotoxicity. The SAP report was released in December 2020.
- The ecological draft risk assessment, drinking water assessment update, and revised human health risk assessment (HHRA) were issued in September 2020. The revised HHRA presents potential risks based on acetylcholinesterase inhibition with the 10X and 1X Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) Safety Factor, reflecting the uncertainties in whether doses that cause pre- and postnatal neurodevelopmental effects occur in children at doses below acetylcholinesterase inhibition. The Agency's draft ecological risk assessment identifies potential adverse effects to mammals, birds, fish, and terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates.

Key Points:

- To date, the Court had not yet issued a decision for the July 28, 2020 oral arguments.
- EPA will consider the recommendations from the September 2020 SAP report to determine if further revisions to the HHRA and the PID are warranted.
- The PID presents potential mitigation options presented with and without the 10X FQPA factor reflecting the approach taken in the September 2020 revised HHRA.
- Stakeholder interest has focused on health concerns for children and agricultural workers, and the potential loss of a widely used insecticide for food crops.

Upcoming Milestones: Interim Decision 2021

Points of Contact:

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